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## **OPI VIDEO UPDATE**

- 2012-13 General Appropriations Act Update
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- Did You Know?

The House Office of Public Information (OPI) has updated its video library to include footage from this week's budget discussions on the floor.

Chair Grimsley's closing remarks on the 2012-13 budget

To view the latest OPI videos, please visit the <u>Public Guide</u> page of the <u>House website</u>.

# **N**OTEWORTHY

#### **House Approves 2012-13 Budget**

On Thursday, February 9, the Florida House of Representatives passed its proposed \$69.2 billion General Appropriations Act for the 2012-13 fiscal year. The budget consists of \$24.3 billion in General Revenue, \$20.4 billion in state trust funds and \$24.5 billion in federal funds, increases PreK-12 education funding by more than \$1 billion and sets aside more than \$2.46 billion in reserves.

Press Release: <u>Florida House of Representatives Increases Florida's Commitment to Education,</u> <u>Supports Job Creation and Protects Taxpayers by Approving 2012-13 General Appropriations Act</u>

Once the Florida Senate has passed its budget bill, representatives from the House and Senate, appointed by the Speaker and President, will participate in the Budget Conference. Members will work together in conference committees to produce conference reports on the budget and conforming bills. Each chamber will consider the conference reports. Once a conference report passes both chambers, it is presented to the Governor for his consideration.

For additional budget information view: OPI Pulse: Florida's Budget Process, Subcommittee Budget Summaries,
Overview of Proposed Conforming Bills

#### **Education Committee Meets with FCS Presidents**

The House Education Committee continued its conversation with Florida College System presidents on Tuesday, February 7. Presidents discussed their respective colleges, focusing on degree programs, including STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines and tuition. In attendance this week were presidents from:

Broward College, Daytona State College, Indian River State College, Miami Dade College, St. Johns River State College and St. Petersburg College.

For additional details on the meeting, please visit the Education Committee's page on the House website.



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# NOTEWORTHY (cont'd)

#### **Committees Pass Tax Exemptions for Military Families and Senior Citizens**

This week, House Committees passed several pieces of legislation that would reduce property taxes for military families and senior citizens. On Tuesday, February 7, members of the Finance & Tax Committee approved unanimously <a href="House Bill 7113">House Bill 7113</a>. The bill updates the list of military operations for which service members deployed outside of the United States can receive an additional homestead tax exemption.

In the Economic Affairs meeting on Wednesday, February 8, members approved <u>House Joint Resolution 93</u>, which provides homestead property tax exemptions for surviving spouses of veterans or first responders killed in the line of duty, and <u>House Joint Resolution 55</u>, which proposes an amendment to the State Constitution that would allow the Legislature to authorize counties and cities to limit the assessed value of homesteads of low-income senior citizens.

To track the progress of these bills, please visit the <u>bill page</u> of the <u>House website</u> or sign up for the House's <u>Legislative Tracking system</u> to receive automatic email updates on any action taken on the bills.

### **RESOURCES**



#### **OPI Pulse**

The OPI Pulse, located on the Public Guide page of the House website, is designed to provide short but comprehensive summary information on specific bills or topics of general interest.

Covering various topics throughout session, OPI Pulse documents are a great introduction to any legislative issue.

View the latest Pulse on the Numeric Nutrient Criteria.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **House Social Media**

The Florida House actively participates with constituents through social media. If you're not following the Florida House on Facebook or Twitter, or logging in to our YouTube channel, start today!

Stay up-to-date on the activities of the House, including the 2012 Legislative Session, by following the House on:



**Facebook** 



<u>Twitter</u>



YouTube



#### **House Photo Gallery**

House photographers are on hand to capture events around the Capitol, committee and subcommittee meetings, and floor discussions throughout the year.

These photos are available in the House Gallery featured on the Public Guide page of the House website. Visit the House Photo Gallery page to search photos by session year, member or event.